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United Nations Forum on Forests

Second session

San José, Costa Rica, 4-15 March 2002

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
 - (a) Means of implementation: finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management;
 - (b) Progress in implementation:
 - (i) Combating deforestation and forest degradation;
 - (ii) Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems;
 - (iii) Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover;
 - (iv) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests;
 - (v) Concepts, terminology and definitions.
4. Common items for each session:
 - (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;
 - (b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination;
 - (c) Country experience and lessons;
 - (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;
 - (e) Intersessional work;



- (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;
 - (g) Promoting public participation;
 - (h) National forest programmes;
 - (i) Trade;
 - (j) Enabling environment.
5. High-level ministerial segment.
 6. Ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
 7. Date and venue for the third session of the Forum.
 8. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Forum.
 9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its second session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). According to Council resolution E/2000/35 of 18 October 2000 establishing the Forum, the Bureau will consist of a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom will also act as the Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

On 22 June 2001, the Forum elected Ositaadinma Anaedu (Nigeria), Ana Patricia Chaves (Costa Rica), Alexey Kornienko (Russian Federation) and Knut Øistad (Norway) as members of the Bureau for the second session of the Forum. It postponed to a later meeting the election of the Chairperson and one Vice-Chairperson from an Asian State, as well as the Rapporteur.

The Forum may wish to elect the nominated Chairperson, Knut Øistad (Norway), and the remaining Vice-Chairperson nominated from an Asian State, Hossein Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran), as well as the Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 2001/293 of 25 July 2001, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Forum on its first session and approved the provisional agenda for its second session.

3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (see report of the Forum on its first session (E/CN.18/2001/3/Rev.1, part two, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1/1)), the second session will address progress in implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and the plan of action of the Forum related to the following elements: (a) combating deforestation and forest degradation; (b) forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems; (c) rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover; (d) rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests; and (e) concepts, terminology and definitions. In the context of these elements, the Forum decided at its first session to address means of implementation, including finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management.

In the documentation listed below, the secretariat has, for each of the elements to be addressed at the second session of the Forum, integrated the consideration of common items such as country experience and lessons, emerging issues relevant to country implementation, promoting public participation and enabling environment.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on combating deforestation and forest degradation (E/CN.18/2002/___)

Report of the Secretary-General on forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems (E/CN.18/2002/___)

Report of the Secretary-General on rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover (E/CN.18/2002/___)

Report of the Secretary-General on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests (E/CN.18/2002/___)

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and reporting, including concepts, terminology and definitions (E/CN.18/2002/___)

4. Common items for each session

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Forum will address the following common items at each of its sessions: (a) multi-stakeholder dialogue; (b) enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination; (c) country experience and lessons; (d) emerging issues relevant to country implementation; (e) intersessional work; (f) monitoring, assessment and reporting; (g) promoting public participation; (h) national forest programmes; (i) trade; and (j) enabling environment.

The Forum may wish to consider some of the common items to be addressed, such as country experience and lessons, emerging issues relevant to country implementation, promoting public participation and enabling environment, in the context of elements identified for the second session of the Forum. However, as

regards the remaining common items, the Forum may wish to consider these as self-standing agenda items.

(a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue

The United Nations Forum on Forests noted the value of multi-stakeholder dialogues to advancing the purpose and objectives of the Forum, in particular implementation of sustainable forest management, at national, regional and global levels. It further decided that multi-stakeholder dialogues are to be held at each session, as of the second session. It has been suggested that the multi-stakeholder dialogue be focused on seeking multi-stakeholder perspectives on the agenda items under consideration by the second session of the Forum.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the inputs from multi-stakeholders (E/CN.18/2002/___)

(b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

The United Nations Forum on Forests decided at its first session to develop and maintain contacts, and cooperate, as well as to make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2002/___)

(c) Country experience and lessons

The United Nations Forum on Forests may wish to address this item in the context of the elements mentioned under agenda item 3.

(d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation

The United Nations Forum on Forests may wish to address this item in the context of the elements mentioned under agenda item 3.

(e) Intersessional work

According to its multi-year programme of work, the United Nations Forum on Forests recommends the convening of three ad hoc expert groups to support the work of the Forum, which will address the following issues: (a) approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting; (b) finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; (c) consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. The Forum will decide on the specific titles, composition, terms of reference, scheduling and reporting of these ad hoc expert groups.

(f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting

The United Nations Forum on Forests may wish to address this item in the context of the elements mentioned under agenda item 3 and, in relation to intersessional work, under agenda item 4 (e).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and reporting, including concepts, terminology and definitions (E/CN.18/2002/ __)

Report of the international expert meeting on monitoring, assessment and reporting on the progress towards sustainable forest management: a country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, submitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of Japan (E/CN.18/2002/ __)

(g) Promoting public participation

The United Nations Forum on Forests may wish to address this item in the context of the elements mentioned under agenda item 3.

(h) National forest programmes

In Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the Council decided that one of the principal functions of the international arrangement on forests would be to facilitate and promote the implementation of Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action as well as other actions that might be agreed upon, inter alia, through national forest programmes and other integrated programmes relevant to forests. Furthermore, the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests highlights the development and strengthening of national forest programmes, as one activity at the national level, with the aim of achieving a holistic and comprehensive approach to sustainable forest management.

The Forum may wish to review the current status of the development and implementation of national forest programmes and consider ways to further enhance the effectiveness of national forest programmes for sustainable forest management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on national forest programmes (E/CN.18/2002/ __)

(i) Trade

The United Nations Forum on Forests may wish to review global trade and forest resource trends and the current status and assessment of developments concerning trade in forest products and services.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on trade and sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2002/ __)

(j) Enabling environment

The United Nations Forum on Forests may wish to address this item in the context of the elements mentioned under agenda item 3.

5. High-level ministerial segment

In Economic and Social Council resolution E/2000/35 establishing the United Nations Forum on Forests it was decided that the Forum would have a high-level ministerial segment for two to three days, as required.

According to the multi-year programme of work of the Forum, adopted by the Forum at its first session, the first high-level ministerial segment of the Forum will be held during its second session, in order to demonstrate political leadership and commitment and to provide guidance to the Forum. Furthermore, at the first session of the Forum, it was decided that an important focus of the first ministerial segment would be to endorse the plan of action, also adopted at the first session, and to consider transmitting it as one of the inputs of the Forum process to the World Summit on Sustainable Development through the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit. In addition, it was noted that the first ministerial segment would provide an opportunity for countries to declare their commitment to country goals and strategies for implementing the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the main issues for consideration at the high-level ministerial segment

6. Ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 made provisions for a one-day policy dialogue with heads of organizations participating in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as other forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the main issues for consideration at the high-level ministerial segment

7. Date and venue for the third session of the Forum

In its decision 2001/218, the Economic and Social Council decided that the first and fifth substantive sessions of the Forum would be held in New York, that two of the three intervening sessions would be held in Geneva and one in San José, Costa Rica, and that any ministerial segment to be convened during the intervening period would be convened during the session held in San José. Accordingly, Geneva is proposed to be the venue for the third session of the Forum.

8. **Provisional agenda for the third session of the Forum**
 9. **Adoption of the report of the Forum on its second session**
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**Economic and Social Council**

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United Nations Forum on Forests**Second session**

San José, Costa Rica, 4-15 March 2002

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Common items for each session: enhanced cooperation
and policy and programme coordination**

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination**Note by the Secretary-General**

1. At its first session, the United Nations Forum on Forests made provisions in its multi-year programme of work for enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination as a common item that will be addressed at each session of the Forum.¹ It was also decided that the Forum should cooperate and make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;² the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council; and other regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments.

2. The Forum particularly emphasized the important role of the Partnership in supporting the work of the Forum in achieving its objectives and in enhancing coordination and cooperation among its member organizations at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The Partnership was established at its inaugural meeting, held in Rome in April 2001. The Partnership consists of international organizations, institutions and instruments that have the capacity, programmes and substantive resources to facilitate the Forum process, in particular the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF).

3. The Partnership has met five times since its inauguration and has agreed, among other things, on its working modalities, including a focal agency system in which a focal agency of the Partnership would support Forum deliberations. Each focal agency would also act as a focal point for facilitating and coordinating activities of Partnership members towards the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to given Forum elements.³ In that regard, in terms of technical assistance and cooperation activities at the national level, the Partnership

* E/CN.18/2002/1.



would act upon the request of countries. The focal agency of the Partnership would also facilitate the policy deliberations of the Forum, including by drafting and providing inputs to the reports of the Secretary-General on specific Forum elements. The focal agency of the Partnership would work closely with Partnership members and other partners, as appropriate.

4. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination has been allocated one meeting during the second session of the Forum, at which the Partnership will present its progress report on a framework for its contribution to the work of the Forum, followed by guidance and feedback from the Forum. However, it should be noted that member bodies of the Partnership can carry out its work only in accordance with the guidance provided by their respective governing bodies. In addition, the Forum may wish to discuss how to further enhance and strengthen cooperation and coordination and foster synergies between other relevant forums, both within and outside the United Nations system. A list of meetings scheduled for 2002 that are relevant to the Forum is provided in the table below.⁴

Notes

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1/1.

² The Partnership is chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its members include the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; FAO; the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and the World Bank.

³ The working modalities are outlined in a Partnership policy document issued in May 2001, and are further elaborated in a framework for the contribution of the Partnership to the work of the Forum issued in January 2002.

⁴ For more detailed information regarding upcoming forest-related meetings, see the calendar of events on the web site of the Forum, at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>.

Meetings scheduled for 2002 that are relevant to the United Nations Forum on Forests, including sessions of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, international conferences and their preparatory processes, and meetings of conferences of parties to United Nations conventions^a

Body/conference	Meeting/session	Date (2002)	Venue
1. Economic and Social Council			
	Organizational session	12-15 February	New York
	Resumed organizational session	29 and 30 April	New York
	Substantive session	1-26 July	New York
<i>Functional commissions</i>			
Commission for Social Development	Fortieth session	12-21 February	New York
Commission on the Status of Women	Forty-sixth session	4-15 March	New York
Commission on Population and Development	Thirty-fifth session	1-5 April	New York
<i>Regional commissions</i>			
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Fifty-eighth session	March/April	Bangkok
Economic Commission for Africa	Thirty-seventh session	First week of April	Addis Ababa
Economic Commission for Europe	Fifty-seventh session	6-10 May	Geneva
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Twenty-ninth session	6-10 May	Brasilia
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	<i>[Not required to hold a session during 2002; however, may hold a special session, if necessary]</i>		
<i>Standing committees</i>			
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	Resumed 2001 session	14-25 January	New York
	2002 session	15-19 April and 13-24 May	New York
	Organizational session	June (1 day)	New York
Committee for Programme and Coordination	Organizational session	May (1 day)	New York
	Forty-second session (first part)	10 June-5 July	New York
	Forty-second session (second part)	19-30 August	New York

<i>Body/conference</i>	<i>Meeting/session</i>	<i>Date (2002)</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development	Third session	9-20 December	New York
2. International conferences and their preparatory processes			
Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development	Final preparatory meeting	14-25 January	New York
International Conference on Financing for Development		18-22 March	Monterrey, Mexico
Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development	Second session	28 January-8 February	New York
	Third session	25 March-5 April	New York
	Fourth session	27 May-7 June	Jakarta
World Summit on Sustainable Development		26 August-4 September	Johannesburg
3. Conferences of parties to United Nations conventions			
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Sixth session	8-26 April	The Hague
Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Eighth session	23 October-1 November	Bonn

^a See E/2002/INF.1.